SOC. ANTIQVA. LOND.

By the King.

IAmes, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, defendour of the faith, &c. To all, to whom these presents shall come, greeting. Where as, in, and by certaine Letters Patents, sealed with Our great Seale of England bearing date at Westminster, the thirtieth day of April, in the seuenteenth yeere of, Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth; It is mentioned, that forasmuch as Wee were giuen to vnderstand, that there was no setled place, or Office of Post-master of this Kingdome for Forraine parts, being out of Our Dominions, for the performance of Our Seruices in such Forraine parts, but that the Seruices of that kinde had beene a long time performed by Our welbeloued seruant, Matthew de Questor Esquire, who had humbly petitioned Us, in respect of his many yeeres seruice, in sending Packets in Forraine parts, and for that he had beene often occasioned to send speciall Messengers beyond the Seas, in matters of more importance concerning Our Seruices; for which purpose he had trained vp one of his sonnes, who had beene diuers times imployed therein, and was able and willing to doe Us seruice, to grant vnto them Our Letters Patents, for the exercise of those Our Seruices in Forraine parts, out of Our Dominions: And for that We had beene certified vnder the hands of many of the Lords, and others of Our Priuie Councell, that in all the time the said Matthew de Questor had serued vs, he had discharged the trust committed vnto him, with much fidelity, discretion and diligence, and had greatly aduanced Our Seruice, by setling speedie meanes of conueyance, and with much lesse charge then any other formerly did: Wee were graciously pleased for those considerations, to condescend vnto his humble Petition: And Wee did therefore by Our said Letters Patents, of Our speciall grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, will, ordeine, constitute and appoint, that for euer thereafter, there should bee one Office, or place which should bee, and should be called the Office of Post-master of England, for Forraine parts, beeing out of the Dominions of Us, Our Heires, and Successours; And that the said Office should be for euer a sole Office of it selfe, and not member, or part of, or belonging vnto any other Office, or place of Post-master whatsoeuer. And that there should be for euer thereafter, one or more sufficient person, or persons, by Us, Our Heires, and Successours, from time to time to bee nominated, and appointed, which should be, and should be called the Postmaster, or Postmasters of England for Forraine parts, being out of the Dominions of Us, Our Heires and Successors, vnto which person and persons, so to be from time to time nominated and appointed, We did by the said Letters Patents, for Us, Our Heires and Successors, giue, grant, limit, assigne and appoint full and sole libertie, power and authoritie, by himselfe, or themselues, or his, or their Deputie, or Deputies, Seruant, or Seruants, to haue the sole and onely taking vp, sending and conueying of all Packets and Letters, concerning the Seruice of Us, Our Heires and Successours, and of all other Packets and Letters, the carriage or conueying whereof, was or had beene accompted, deemed, or taken to bee incident, or properly, or accustomably belonging to any Post-master into the said Forraine parts, or any of them, and the sole doing and executing of all other matters and things, incident or belonging to the Office or place of a Post-master, which should any wayes concerne any Seruice or businesse to bee dispatched into, or from any the said Forraine parts in as large and ample manner as any other Post-master within our Realme of England, theretofore had done, or might doe the like, for, or within this Our Realme of England, or any Our Dominions, and to haue the sole nominating, appointing, and establishing of Posts & Curriers, necessary and conuenient, as well within this Our Realme, as in any Forraine parts, for the conueying, exporting, and importing such Letters and Packets, as aforesaid: And Our further will and pleasure was, and Wee did by the said Letters Patents, for Us, Our Heires and Successours grant, that it should and might be lawfull for, and We did thereby giue power and authoritie, vnto the said person and persons, so to bee nominated and appointed as aforesaid, by himselfe, or themselues, or his, or their Deputie, or Deputies, Seruant, or Seruants, from time to time, to demand, aske, receiue, and take for the execution of the said Office, and for his, and their labour and paines to be taken therein, of the partie, or parties which should imploy him, or them, or any of them, to any the purposes aforesaid, all, and the like summe, and summes of money, benefits, allowances, payments, rewards, rates, and emoluments respectiuely, as then were, or theretofore had beene lawfully, or vsually taken for, or in respect of the doing, or performing of the same: And further We (for the considerations in the said Letters Patents expressed) did thereby for Us, Our Heires and Successours, giue and grant, vnto the said Matthew de Questor, and Matthew de Questor his sonne, the aforesaid Office or place of Postmaster of England for Forraine parts, being out of the Dominions of Us, Our Heires and Successours, and them the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, the first and present Postmaster, and Postmasters of England for Forraine parts, being out of the Dominions of Us, Our Heires and Successours, to doe, execute and performe, all and singuler things to the said Office, in manner aforesaid belonging, or appertaining, or by vertue of the said Letters Patents, to bee done, executed, or performed: We did for Us, Our Heires and Successours, nominate, appoint, make, create, and ordaine by the said Letters Patents; To haue, hold, vse, exercise, and enioy the said Office of Postmaster of England for Forraine parts, being out of the Dominions of Us, our Heires and Successours, with the appurtenances, together with the aforesaid powers, priuiledges, authorities, summe and summes of money, benefits, allowances, payments, rewards, rates, and emoluments before

mentioned, to the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, aswell by themselues, or either of them, as by their, or either of their sufficient Deputie, or Deputies, Seruant, or Seruants, for, and during the naturall liues of the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, and for, and during the naturall life of the longer liuer of them; And therefore We did by the said Letters Patents, for Us, Our Heires and Successours, require and command the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, and the longer liuer of them, that he, and they should from time to time, diligently attend, and intend the same Our Seruice, as by Our said Letters Patents more at large appeareth. And whereas sithence the making of Our said Letters Patents, Our right trustie & right welbeloued, Charles Lord Stanhope of Harington, made complaint vnto Us, that the said Grant made to the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, did trench into the Office which the Lord Stanhope holdeth for Postmastership within Our Dominions, by vertue of Our Letters Patents made in the fift yeere of Our Reigne of England, vnto Iohn late Lord Stanhope, father of the said Charles Lord Stanhope for his life, & afterwards vnto the said Charles, now Lord Stanhope during his life, which complaint being by Us referred to Our right trustie, and right welbeloued Cousin and Conſellour, William Earle of Pembroke, Lord Chamberlaine of Our Houshold, and to our right trustie and welbeloued Counsellor, Sir George Caluert Knight, one of Our principall Secretaries of State, and to Our trustie and welbeloued, Sir Thomas Couentry Knight, Our Attorney Generall, Sir Robert Heath Knight, Our Sollicitor Generall, Wee haue receiued from them a Certificate vnder their handes, that the said Lord Stanhopes Grant, of the Office of Master of Our Posts, did extend but to such Seruices as were to be done in Our Realme of England, and other Our Dominions, and that Our Grant to the said Matthew de Questor the father, and the sonne, did extend onely to Seruices to be done in Forraine parts out of Our Dominions; and that the said Lord Stanhope had not shewed them any thing materiall to impeach that latter Grant, made vnto the said Matthew de Questor the father, and the sonne, but that both Grants might well stand together, being of distinct places, and that therefore the said Lord Stanhope, or any other deriuing any authoritie from, or vnder him, ought not to giue any interruption to the said Matthew de Questor in the execution of his Seruice: And whereas We are credibly informed, that aswell depending the said Reference, as of late, and since the making of the said Certificate vnto Us, the said Lord Stanhope, and some others pretending to be authorized vnder him, haue aswell by setting vp of Bils, and Writings in publique places within Our Citie of London, as otherwise, endeauoured to interrupt the execution of Our said Grant, and Letters Patents, made to the said Matthew de Questor the father, and his sonne, in derogation of Us, and to the hinderance, disturbance, and distraction of the Seruice to be executed in Forraine parts.

Know ye, that we, to the end such distractions, which by the meanes aforesaid haue arisen, or may hereafter arise, to the disturbance of our Seruice, may bee quieted and preuented for the time to come, haue thought meet to signifie, and doe hereby signifie, publish and declare the premisses, to all to whom the same doe or shall in any wise appertaine, and that Wee doe well approue and allow the Certificate, and opinion before mentioned; And therefore it is Our will and pleasure, that the said Letters Patents, bearing date the said thirtieth day of April, and all the Powers, Priuiledges, Seruices, and Authorities therein contained, or thereby required to bee done, bee from henceforth in all points, and to all intents, constructions and purposes, effectually put in execution, by the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, or either of them, their, or either of their Deputies, or Assignes, according to the true intent, or meaning of the same, without the let, impediment, hinderance, impeachement, or disturbance of any person, or persons whatsoeuer. And for the better effecting of this Our pleasure, We doe by these presents, for Us, Our Heires and Successours, prohibit all and singuler person, and persons whatsoeuer, (other then the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, and his, and their Deputies, Seruants, and Assignes,) directly, or indirectly, to doe, execute, performe, or intrude themselues, to haue any imployment, in, or about any thing, which shall, or ought to bee done by them, the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, or his, or their Deputies, Seruants, or Assignes, without the Deputation, Licence, or Allowance, of them, or the longer liuer of them, vpon paine of the indignation and displeasure of Us, Our Heires, and Sucessours, and vpon such paines and penalties, as may bee inflicted vpon the offendors, for contempt of this Our Royall Commandement: And Our will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby, for Us, Our Heires, and Successours, charge and command that the Lord Chamberleine of Our Houshold, the Lord Warden of Our Cinque-Ports, Our Secretaries of State, and all Mayors, Sheriffes, Justices of Peace, Bayliffes, and all speciall Commissioners, and all Searchers of Our Ports, and all other the Officers, and Ministers of Us, Our Heires, and Successours whersoeuer, in their seuerall Jurisdictions, Offices and places, not onely to be ayding and assisting vnto the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, their Seruants, Deputies, and Assignes, and euery of them, in the execution of the same Letters Patents, and the seruice and busines thereby required, or appointed to bee done, or performed by them, but also to their vttermost powers, to represse, stay, and hinder the proceedings of all Intruders, and disavowed persons, which shall presume to attempt, or goe about directly, or indirectly to doe, performe, or execute any matter or thing whatsoeuer, contrary to Our pleasure herein expressed; Although expresse mention of the true yeerely value, or certaintie of the premisses, or any of them, or of any other Gifts, or Grants by Us, or any of Our Progenitours, or Predecessours, to the said Matthew de Questor the father, and Matthew de Questor the sonne, or either of them, before this time made in these presents is not made, or any Statute, Act, Ordinance, Prouision, Proclamation, or Restraint heretofore had, made, ordained, or prouided, or any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoeuer, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. In witnesse whereof We haue caused these Our Letters to be made Patents.

Witnesse Our selfe at Westminster, the nineteenth day of December, in the one and twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the seuen and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

Per Breu. de priuato sigillo.

Yong and Pye.